

REMARKS*The Pending Claims*

Claims 24 and 30 have been cancelled, thus claims 20-22 and 25-29, and 31-35 are currently pending in the application.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action dated August 29, 2011, included the following rejections and objections:

1. Claims 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.
2. Claims 24-26 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.
3. Claims 20-22, 24-26 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Veiga et al. (US Patent Application publication 2002/0022420).
4. Claims 27-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veiga et al. (US Patent Application publication 2002/0022420) in view of Kami et al. (US 5,114,180)

Discussion of the Rejections

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph and second paragraph for use of the term "aggregate". The term "aggregate" has been replaced by the word "total" so that the claims are clearer. Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 30 has been cancelled.

All of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Veiga et al. (US 2002/0022420) or as being unpatentable over Veiga et al. in view of Kami et al. Applicants submit herein declaration under 37 C.F.R 1.131 antedating this reference. The declaration by Dr. Shulong Li was submitted in related case 09/718,807 on March 21, 2003 to establish completion of the invention at a date prior to June 7, 1999. Thus, Applicants respectfully believe that the Veiga reference (US 2002/0022420) is not available as prior art over the pending claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection and to pass the subject application to allowance. In the event that the Examiner believes that the claims would be allowable with minor changes, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss an Examiner's Amendment.

Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

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Respectfully submitted,

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